



Major County Sheriffs of America
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Sheriffs Support Initiatives to Combat Officer Suicide

Suicide in law enforcement is a tragic reality and in recent years, more officers have died from suicide than in the line of duty. Mental health strain on families and individual well-being is acutely felt and drawing more attention to this issue and expanding programs is long overdue. Through passage of the Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis (STOIC) Act and the introduction of the Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act, Sheriffs will better understand the underlying factors of this epidemic and be able to provide vital resources.

Senator Hawley said, "I'm thrilled that Congress passed my bipartisan legislation to support our men and women in law enforcement. These heroes show up every day to protect and serve our communities, so it's important that we show up for them."

"Congress stepped up to the plate with the passage of the STOIC Act. As front-line leaders, we should do everything we can to ensure the wellbeing of the men and women who serve," said Sheriff Grady Judd, MCSA President. "I applaud Senator Hawley, Representative Reschenthaler, staff and advocates for their efforts in getting the STOIC Act across the finish line. The MCSA is also appreciative of Representative Quigley who has taken the lead on a voluntary data collection effort so our profession can better understand the pervasiveness of officer suicide and work towards a data driven solution."

"Law enforcement officers place themselves in danger for their communities every day, running toward danger when everyone else runs away from it. The least we can do to give back to these brave men and women is to ensure that we fight for their mental health. A critical step in that mission is understanding the number of officers who attempt suicide or lose their lives to suicide every year," said Congressman Quigley. "Many non-profits already estimate that suicide takes the lives of more officers than line-of-duty deaths. By establishing a government data collection program that compiles accurate information on suicide rates, we can better serve law enforcement officers, establish effective prevention practices, and save more lives."

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*The **Major County Sheriffs of America** (MCSA) is a professional law enforcement association of elected Sheriffs representing counties or parishes with 500,000 population or more. MCSA is dedicated to preserving the highest integrity in law enforcement, corrections, and the elected Office of the Sheriff. MCSA's membership represents over 100 million Americans, and works to promote a greater understanding of strategies to address future problems and identify law enforcement challenges facing members of the organization.*